



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1898
22 May 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council says conditions for modification of sanctions regime against Bosnian Serbs have not been met.
- + Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is meeting commitment to close border with Serb-controlled areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Co-Chairmen of International Conference report.
- + UNPROFOR says situation in Sarajevo remains tense; Bosnian Serbs remove two artillery pieces from weapons collection point.
- + Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend UNDOF mandate for six months; says Force performs functions effectively with cooperation of Israel and Syria.
- + UNICEF Executive Director says Fund must respond quickly, strongly and with clarity to emergencies.
- + States Parties to Law of Sea Convention conclude five-day session by adopting rules of procedure.
- + Member States owe United Nations \$2.89 billion as of 15 May; \$1.02 billion owed to regular budget and \$1.87 billion owed to peace-keeping.
- + International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda receives pledges worth \$6 million.
- + UNEP honours 27 individuals and organizations for outstanding contributions to environmental protection.

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The Security Council today reviewed the sanctions regime imposed on the Bosnian Serbs by resolution 942 (1994), and concluded that conditions for its modification had not been met. Council President Jean-Bernard Merimee (France) told correspondents that last week's developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in Sarajevo, made it all the more necessary that the

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Bosnian Serbs accept the Contact Group's plan as a starting point for negotiations.

The sanctions imposed by resolution 942 (1994) apply to "all activities of an economic nature", with certain exceptions on humanitarian grounds. The Council said they would be reconsidered if the Bosnian Serbs accepted the territorial settlement proposed by the Contact Group.

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The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is continuing to meet its commitment to close the border between it and Serb-controlled areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. In a report issued today, they also certified that there had been no commercial transshipments across the border between the two countries during the past 30 days. The report was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council in a letter dated 18 May.

The Co-Chairmen called attention to the stringent financial situation of the International Conference's Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). On 6 March, the Mission had 194 international personnel covering 19 border crossing-points. Due to the non-payment or late payment of contributions, it had only 152 as of 16 May. The Mission needed at least 250 international personnel to enhance the effectiveness of its work, the report went on to say.

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The situation in Sarajevo remained tense today, and a large number of firing incidents were reported, according to a United Nations spokesman. Bosnian Serb soldiers this morning removed two artillery pieces from a weapons collection point at Poljine. French peace-keepers attempted unsuccessfully to prevent the removal of the artillery pieces.

The spokesman noted that the Force Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), General Bernard Janvier, would meet with troop contributors at Headquarters on Wednesday to discuss military aspects of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Meanwhile, the situation in Croatia was stable, although some Croatian Government and Croatian Serb troops remained in the Zone of Separation, the spokesman said. There were severe restrictions on the movement of United Nations personnel in Sectors North and East.

Meanwhile, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Richard Goldstone, visited Zagreb today. He met with Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and the Croatian Foreign Minister. A team from the International Tribunal is currently in Croatia to investigate

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recent events in Western Slavonia and the shelling of Zagreb with cluster bombs. Justice Goldstone was expected to meet with the team to review its work.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) be extended for six months to 30 November. The Force was established in 1974 to supervise the cease-fire and agreement on disengagement between Israel and Syria. In a report dated 17 May, he said that UNDOF performed its functions effectively with the cooperation of the parties, and that its continued presence was essential.

The situation in the Middle East was potentially dangerous despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, the Secretary-General continued. It was likely to remain so unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem could be reached.

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The Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) today began its annual session at Headquarters. In her opening address, newly appointed Executive Director Carol Bellamy stressed that UNICEF must respond quickly, strongly, efficiently and with clarity to emergencies. It must respond not only when those emergencies arose, but as an ongoing feature of the current global environment. She said the Fund must not weaken its existing programmes or divert resources from longer-term development efforts, which were the most cost-efficient investment in conflict and disaster prevention.

During 1994, UNICEF cooperated in programmes in 149 countries. This included support to 18 programmes in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States. Total programme expenditure reached \$801 million (\$397 million from general resources and \$404 million from supplementary funds). That figure represented a decrease of \$3 million from 1993, and included a decrease in programme expenditures for emergency assistance.

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The Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea has concluded its five-day session by adopting its rules of procedure. It also requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft budget by 1 September for the initial phase of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. The next Meeting will be held from 27 November to 1 December to consider the draft budget.

Meeting President Satya Nandan (Fiji) said he had appointed nine States parties to the Credentials Committee: Cameroon, Croatia, Germany, Malta, Marshall Islands, Philippines, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

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Regarding practical arrangements to establish the International Tribunal, he said its composition and Chambers would be considered at a date closer to the election of the Tribunal's members scheduled to be held in August 1996. The United States had stated its intention to nominate a candidate to the Tribunal; Philippines had actually made its nomination.

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As of 15 May, Member States owed the United Nations \$2.89 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, \$1.02 billion was for assessments for the regular budget and \$1.87 billion was for peace-keeping operations.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed \$527 million to the regular budget and \$650 million to peace-keeping. The Russian Federation owed \$41 million to the regular budget and \$558 million to peace-keeping.

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The Trust Fund for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda has received pledges worth \$6 million, Prosecutor Richard Goldstone announced in Kigali on Friday. He said the money would allow the Tribunal to become operational very quickly.

Justice Goldstone also received commitments for the secondment of investigators to the Tribunal. Thirty-three investigators are currently available, although a total of 100 are needed.

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The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recognized the commitment of 27 individuals and organizations to the cause of environmental protection by electing them to its Global 500 Roll of Honour. They will be officially honoured at a special award ceremony in Pretoria on 5 June -- hosted by UNEP and the Government of South Africa -- as part of this year's World Environment Day celebrations. The awards are given out every year to individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the protection of the environment.

Meanwhile, UNEP has signed an agreement of cooperation with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in the field of environmental law. The agreement forms the third annex to a Framework Agreement of Cooperation concluded last March. It covers a wide range of activities, including development and codification of international environmental law; support to international environmental conventions; services to developing countries in the development of national environmental legislation; management of environmental law information; and legal training.

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